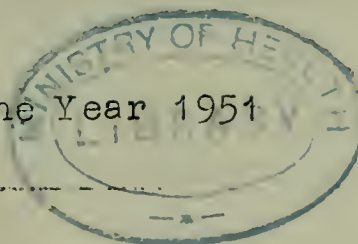


BOROUGH OF  
SAFFRON WALDEN  
in the  
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF ESSEX

THE ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
and the  
BOROUGH SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1951





## PREFACE

Telephone No:  
Saffron Walden 2194

Public Health Department,  
69, High Street,  
Saffron Walden.

September, 1952.

To The Mayor and Members of Saffron Walden Borough Council.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1951.

As will be seen, the birth rate per 1000 of the estimated population was higher than in 1950 (14.6 compared with 12.9) and the death rate per 1000 of the estimated population was only very slightly raised (12.8 compared with 12.7)

It is satisfactory to note that in spite of the epidemic of measles that occurred in the spring and summer of 1951, no deaths resulted from this disease; in addition no cases of food poisoning were notified in 1951.

In conclusion I should like to thank the members of the Council, the Council's Officers, and in particular my predecessor, Dr. S. R. Richardson, and the staff of the Public Health Department for their help and co-operation.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

Irene M. Conway Hastilow

Medical Officer of Health



BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor F.W. Goddard

Councillor J.W. Barr (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor P.L. Allen

Alderman G. O. Bradley

Alderman E. Rooke

Councillor G.T. Barnard

Councillor F.C. Start

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

S. R. Richardson, B.A., M.D., D.P.H. (Retired 10/3/51).  
Irene M. Conway Hastilow, M.B., C.H.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,  
D.C.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G. (Appointed 10/3/51).

Borough Sanitary Inspector & Housing Officer:

A.E. Greensmith, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Public Health Department,  
69, High Street,  
Saffron Walden.



STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS  
OF THE AREA

Area: 7,502 acres.

Population (Register General's estimate of resident population 1951):  
7,186.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1951) according to Rate Books: 2250

Rateable value: £45,081.

Sum represented by penny rate: £174.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year (corrections being made for inward and outward transfers):-

	Total	Male	Female	
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate	101	62	39)	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 14.6
(Illegitimate	4	2	2)	
STILL BIRTHS (Legitimate	4	2	2)	
(Illegitimate	0	0	0)	
DEATHS	92	43	49)	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 12.8

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES 1951

Cause of Death	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1
Tuberculosis, other	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	4
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
Diabetes	1	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	5
Coronary disease, angina	5	6
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-





	Male	Female
Other heart disease	13	8
Other circulatory disease	4	6
Influenza	1	5
Pneumonia	-	1
Bronchitis	-	1
Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	4
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1
All other accidents	1	-
Suicide	-	1
Homicide and operations of war	-	-

DEATHS from puerperal causes:-

From puerperal sepsis	0	
From other puerperal causes	0	Total 0

Deaths of infants under one year of age (Legitimate 1)  
(Illegitimate 0) Total 1

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age (Legitimate 1)  
(Illegitimate 0) Total 1

All infants per 1,000 live births: 9.1

DEATHS from Measles (all ages)	0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
" " Diarrhoea (all ages)	0

There was no excessive mortality from any particular disease during the year.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Service - Bacteriological Service: The district is served by the Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Ambulance Facilities - A day and night ambulance service is provided by the Essex County Council. The ambulance station is at Saffron Walden and is on the telephone, but as the driver and attendant may be away from the station answering a call, persons requiring an ambulance are advised to dial "999" and ask for an ambulance. Where there is no dialling system it is sufficient to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance.

Non-emergency calls are only accepted from a hospital, a doctor or nurse, or other competent person such as a duly authorised officer in the Mental Health Service.



## Home Nursing and Domiciliary Midwifery

These services are carried out by the Home Nurse/Midwives resident in the Borough.

## Domestic Help Service

Applications for domestic help should be made to the Area Medical Officer, Mid-Essex Division, 75, Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

Hospitals - The hospitals are managed by the Regional Hospital Boards and provide medical, surgical and special treatment. The hospitals which serve the Saffron Walden population are those in Saffron Walden, Cambridge, and Bishop's Stortford.

Chest Clinics are available for the population of the Borough. There is one at Saffron Walden General Hospital and one at Castle Hill, Cambridge.

Treatment for Venereal Diseases is provided at the Clinics at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and at Haymeads Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### Infectious Diseases: (other than Tuberculosis)

Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	0
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	120
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	2
Paratyphoid B	...	...	...	...	...	1

### Diphtheria

For the second year running no cases of diphtheria were notified in the Borough.

### Measles

The incidence of this disease during 1951 was unusually high.

The case of Paratyphoid B notified appeared to have contracted the disease outside the Borough.

### Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases

21 cases of Mumps and 66 cases of Chicken-pox were notified by the schools in 1951.

## TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications: Seven cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and two cases moved into the Borough.

Deaths: Two deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified in 1951.





## HOUSING

In selecting tenants for the new houses the 'point' system was used.

Houses completed by the Borough Council ...	26
Houses completed by private enterprise ...	9

The Council's Engineer & Surveyor (Mr. T.W. Cloughton, M.I.M.E., M.R.S.I.,) has given the following reports :-

DRAINAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL - The general conditions of the works continues to be quite good.

Whilst the final effluent occasionally failed to reach the standard required by the Essex County Council in all respects, the result achieved by the recent repairs and improvements have been most encouraging.

SWIMMING BATHS - During the year the circulating system on the purification plant has been greatly improved by putting in a new 7" diameter suction and coupling up the old 4" suction and 3" delivery, both acting as delivering pipes.

By this scheme the estimated turn over period of the water in the pool has been reduced from about 6 hours to a time somewhat less than 3 hours.

WATER - The water supply has continued to be most satisfactory.

Agreement has been reached with the Saffron Walden Rural District Council for a piped supply from Ashdon to serve that part of the Borough District in the neighbourhood of St. Aylotts and Butlers.

Negotiations between the Borough Council and the appropriate Government Departments have been entered into, whereby the Council propose to take over the pumping station, mains and high level water tank at Little Walden.



# CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Bright with very few mineral particles.

Turbidity (Silica Scale): Less than 5

Colour (Hazen)	Nil	Odour	Nil
Reaction pH	7.1	Free Carbon Dioxide	33
Electric Conductivity		Total Solids, dried at	
20°C	590	180°C	395
Chlorine in Chlorides	18	Alkalinity as Calcium	
Hardness: Total	190	Carbonate	285
Carbonate (Temporary)	190	Nitrogen in Nitrites	
		Less than	0.01
Non-carbonate (Permanent)	0	Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs.	
Nitrogen in Nitrates	5.0	at 27°C	0.00
Free Ammonia	0.000		
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000		
Metals: Iron less than	0.03		
other metals	Absent		

## BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
Number of Colonies			
developing on Agar	0 per ml.	2 per ml.	- per ml.
	Present in	Absent from	Probable Number
Presumptive Coli-			
aerogenes Reaction	- ml.	100 ml	0 per 100 ml
Bact. coli. (Type 1)	- ml.	100 ml	0 per 100 ml
Cl. welchii Reaction	- ml.	- ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction, and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water has moderate hardness, contains no excess of saline or mineral constituents in solution, and its organic quality and bacterial purity are very satisfactory.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.





CIRCULARS, ETC., RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1951

Circular	Number	Title
Ministry of Health Circular	8/51	Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc) Regulations, 1947-1951.
Ministry of Health Circular	12/51	The Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935. The Sanitary Officers Order 1926. Medical Officers of Health Salaries Award of Industrial Court.
Ministry of Health Circular	23/51	Civil Defence Act, 1948. Duties of Local Authorities in relation to:- (i) Casualty Services and (ii) Public Health in time of War.
Ministry of Health Circular	27/51	Medical Officers of Health & Sanitary Inspectors - Procedure for filling vacancies in these offices.
Ministry of Health Circular	28/51	Puerperal Pyrexia. Modification of previous definition & introduction of new form of notification.
Ministry of Health Circular	29/51	Regional Organisation - Revised Arrangements.
Ministry of Health Circular	32/51	National Assistance Act, 1948. Welfare Services for handicapped person other than the blind & partially sighted.
Ministry of Health Circular	33/51	Notification of Infectious Diseases & Food Poisoning. Model Form to be adopted.
Ministry of Health Circular	37/51	National Assistance Act 1948. National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951. Removal of persons in need of care and attention.
Ministry of Health Circular	42/51	Preparation of Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health for 1951. Form 572 (Revised).
Ministry of Food Circular	MF5/51	Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949. Approved Oxidising & Preservative Agents.
Ministry of Food Circular	MF9/51	The Cream (Revocation) Order 1951.



Circular	Number	Title
Ministry of Food Circular	MF11/51	The Dried Egg (Control of Use) (Revocation) Order 1951.
Ministry of Food Circular	MF15/51. 16/51	Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937 & 1948. Grand Duchy of Luxemburg & Republic of Italy.
Ministry of Food Circular	MF18/51	The Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1951.
Ministry of Food Circular	MF19/51	Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949. Approved Oxidising & Preservative Agents.
Ministry of Food Circular	MF20/51	Dogs in Food Shops, Restaurants etc.
Ministry of Food Circular	MF67/51	Food & Drugs, England. The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc) Amendment Regulations 1951
Statutory Instrument 1951	No. 67	The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc) Amendment Regulations 1951.
Statutory Instrument 1951	No. 593	The Cream (Revocation) Order.
Statutory Instrument 1951	No. 755	The Civil Defence (Designation of the Minister of Health and the Minister of Local Government & Town Planning) Order, 1951.
Statutory Instrument 1951	No. 928	The Dried Egg (Control of Use) (Revocation) Order 1951.
Statutory Instrument 1951	No. 1022	The Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1951.
Statutory Instrument 1951	No. 1036	The Public Health (Leprosy) Regulation, 1951.
Statutory Instrument 1951	No. 1081	The Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations 1951.
Statutory Instrument 1951	No. 1846	Rag Flock & Other Filling Materials Regulations 1951.
The Central Council for Health Education Circular Letter. 12.1.51.		Safe Food Campaigns.
The Central Council for Health Education Circular Letter. 25.5.51.		New treatment of an existing poster re: infection from flies.





## Report of the Borough Sanitary Inspector

Dwelling houses inspected under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Dwelling houses visited with regard to housing accommodation and overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Premises inspected other than above regarding complaints, infectious diseases etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Re-inspections, Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Other inspections:							
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	329
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

### Statutory Notices:

Statutory action was not found to be necessary.

### Informal Notices:

Number of Notices served during year	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Number of such notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Number of notices outstanding	...	...	...	...	...	...	25

### Other matters:

Number of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Number of samples of Milk taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Number of samples of ice-cream taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of samples of water taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of samples of sewage effluent taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of premises treated for insect pests	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

### Work carried out following representations by the Sanitary Inspector:-

Dwelling Houses							
Walls repaired							
External plastering repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Internal plastering repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rainwater goods repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Window sashes or frames repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nuisances from animals abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous repairs and nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

### Drainage

Drains re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4



## Water Closets

New pans fixed ... ..	1
Flushing apparatus repaired ... ..	1
Miscellaneous repairs ... ..	3

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937:-

There are 45 factories with power and 3 factories without power on the Register. Included among the factories with power there are 4 laundries and 4 bakehouses.

### 1. - Inspections:-

Premises	Number on Register	Inspect-ions	Number of Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authority	3	3	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which section 7 applies.	45	12	0	0
(a) subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order 1938	0	0	0	0
(iii) Other premises under the Act excluding outworkers premises.	0	0	0	0
Total	48	15	0	0

### 2. In no case were DEFECTS found

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Over four hundred properties have been inspected and treated during the year, including 14 "Block Control" schemes, for the destruction of rats and mice. The Slade and main Public Sewers were test baited twice, indicating a fairly serious infestation of rats on both occasions. The refuse dump remains a constant source of trouble, steps are taken to eliminate as far as possible the rodent population with some degree of success. The general indication shows that infestation of the Borough by rodents is an increasingly serious problem, the number of major infestations of agricultural land continues to grow involving a substantial loss of foodstuffs and damage to buildings etc.

## SHOPS ACT, 1950

No action was found to be necessary.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT

Difficulties in obtaining appropriate grades of fuel gave rise to unsatisfactory conditions with respect to two factory chimneys.





# RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There is no manufacture of rag flock within the Borough.

## HOUSING

At the end of the year 26 permanent houses had been completed by the Council and 9 by private persons, including 3 new Almshouses. During the year accommodation was found for 49 families in Council houses or requisitioned property. A further 40 permanent Council houses were in course of erection.

### 1. - Inspection of Dwelling houses:-

a.	Number of houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	41
b.	Number of inspections for the purpose	53
c.	Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
d.	Number of houses (exclusive of c.) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	30

### 2. Remedy of defects during year following service of informal notices :-

Number of houses rendered fit	14
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### 3. Closure of houses:-

Number of houses in respect of which the person in control gave a written undertaking not to relet the house until rendered in all respects fit for human habitation	4
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### 4. Overcrowding:-

Number of cases of overcrowding abated	4
Number of persons concerned therein	17
Number of cases of overcrowding outstanding	5

All cases of overcrowding are referred to the Housing Committee for re-housing as and when accommodation becomes available.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK SUPPLY

The majority of the milk consumed in the Borough is produced locally, in the main from Tuberculin Tested herds. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries since 1949 has been responsible for the registration of dairy farms. One dairy is registered by the Council, the dairy has been inspected and found to be in a satisfactory condition, some improvements are to be carried out by the owner with regard to bottling and washing facilities. No samples of milk have been taken for bacteriological examination.



## ICE-CREAM

There are 21 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream, the majority of dealers retail a product from reputable firms. There is one manufacturer of ice-cream in the district, one sample taken from the factory was reported as unsatisfactory.

## HANDLING, WRAPPING AND DELIVERY OF FOOD

The adoption of Byelaws under section 15, of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 has been approved. Arrangements have been made to visit all food premises following the distribution of copies of the Byelaws.

## MEAT

336 inspections of butchers' shops, slaughterhouses and other premises were made during the year. All meat found unfit for human consumption was voluntarily surrendered, no magistrates order being required in any case.

The Ministry of Food slaughterhouse is established at Messrs. T.R. Goddard & Sons, Church Street. Details of the work carried out are given below. There are three other licensed slaughterhouses in the district, they have not been in use during the year.

The number of animals slaughtered during the year shows an increase of over nine times the figure recorded for 1940, the year the Ministry of Food's centralised slaughtering programme came into force.

Following representations to the Ministry, improvements are to be carried out at the Government slaughterhouse with regard to lighting, washing facilities and storage of offal etc.

### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED:-

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	1296	389	1896	726
Number inspected	1296	389	1896	726
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis:</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	5	10	8	51
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	318	1	18	143
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	29.42	2.84	1.37	26.72
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	16	0	0	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	54	0	0	23
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.39	0	0	3.30





MEAT AND OTHER FOODSTUFFS EXAMINED AND FOUND UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION :-

Beef

26 carcasses	12,232 lbs
Parts of carcasses	1,812 "
Offal	12,116 "

Mutton

8 carcasses	1,196 lbs
Parts of carcasses	16 "
Offal	312½ "

Veal

10 carcasses	699 lbs
Parts of carcasses	10 "
Offal	152½ "

Pork

52 carcasses	7,150 lbs
Parts of carcasses	1,214 "
Offal	1,247 "

Imported

Beef	71 lbs
Offal	10 "
Mutton	4½ "

Tinned Food

	lbs
Ham	552½
Luncheon Meat	210½
Sausages	9¾
Fruit	176¾
Jams	23¼
Fish	30¼
Soups	12
Fruit Juices	4¾
Vegetables	152½
Milk	197¾

Other Foods

	lbs
Fish Roes	224
Sultanas	32
Bacon	54½
Margarine	115½
Salad Cream	9
Cheese	13¾
Biscuits	8½
Fish	159½

